GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:659
ANSWERED ON:12.07.2004
ELEPHANT MENACE
Khan Shri Sunil

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the menace of elephant is on the rise in Bankura and Midnapore districts of West Bengal and Orissa due to non-availability of food in forest area;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent the same;

(c) the share value of Centre and State in case crops are destroyed and persons are killed by the elephants;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to provide more compensation to the farmers and the dependents of persons killed by the elephants; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) The Central Government is aware of the problem caused by wild elephants in various parts of West Bengal and Orissa. But it has not received any report to the effect that elephant menace is on the increase due to non-availability of food in the forests of the two States.

(b) The forest authorities of the two States have been dealing with the problem by constructing elephant-proof barriers (i.e. trenches and energized fencing), deploying trained elephants (Kunkis) and specially equipped squads for chasing away wild elephants, distributing crackers and searchlights among the villagers and by capturing or eliminating problematic elephants. Ex-gratia relief is also paid to the victims of elephant depredation. Steps are also being taken to protect and improve the elephant habitat. During the current financial year, the Central Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 106 lakh under Project Elephant for West Bengal which includes Rs. 47.60 lakh for anti-depredation works and ex-gratia relief. Similarly, an amount of Rs. 121 lakh has been sanctioned for Orissa which includes Rs. 69.75 lakh for anti-depredation measures and ex-gratia relief.

(c) The share of the Central Government and the State Governments as regards ex-gratia relief paid for loss of human life and crop caused by wild elephants is as follows:

Year	West Bengal		Orissa	
	State Government	Central Government	State	Central Government
2001-02	Rs.78.072 lakh	Rs.15.343 lakh	0	Rs. 30 lakh
2002-03	Rs.64.478 lakh	Rs.20.672 lakh	0	Rs.45.412 lakh
2003-04	Rs.60.180 lakh	Rs.20 lakh	0	Rs.24.52 lakh

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.